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Macomber Jr. Said Getting Top Foreign Aid Post

CPYRGHT

What next for Monroe County's 42-year-old William B. Macomber, Jr.?

State Department officials this week confirmed the fact that he is expected to resign shortly as ambassador to the Kingdom of Jordan in the troubled Middle East.

It is believed he will be given a top administrative post in the Agency for International Development, but the State Department is not saying what the post will be, nor when it will be announced.

The shift is another astonishing development in Macomber's dramatic career.

It will be paralleled by a

one occasion expressed admiration for the latter's firm support of national foreign policy during the Eisenhower administration, especially at the time of the U-2 incident and the subsequent meeting in Paris between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev.

At that time Macomber was serving as Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations. In this role he was in virtually daily contact with President Johnson, the latter then being Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate.

With much of the criticism of the U.S. foreign aid program originating with Republican

groups in Congress, some Washington sources point out the desirability of having a respected Republican like Macomber in a key foreign aid post.

Macomber's previous career reads almost like a fiction writer's account of a rising governmental luminary.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University, where he played guard on the football team ("more noted for his tenacity than for unusual athletic grace," says a friend), Macomber joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943. He was assigned to the Cloak and Dagger Office of Strategic Services, and worked behind enemy lines in

both France and the Far East.

He returned to Yale after the war and received a Master of Arts degree there in 1947. In 1949 he graduated from Harvard Law School. In 1951 he received a master's degree in government from the University of Chicago, where he completed his course and residence requirements for a Ph.D. However, the rapid pace of his life in the past 12 years has prevented him from writing his doctoral dissertation.

In 1951 he joined the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, and two years later entered the State Department in the office of the Special Assistant

to the Secretary of State for Intelligence.

In 1954 he became administrative assistant to Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky. The next year he returned to the State Department as special assistant to Undersecretary Herbert Hoover, Jr. He later became special assistant to Secretary Dulles, and then took the key post of Undersecretary for Congressional Relations, a post which he also held under Dulles' successor, Christian Herter.

In Washington, Macomber is respected for intelligence, tremendous devotion to duty, and a varied background in national affairs hardly matched by few if any persons of his age.

change in Macomber's personal life as he is expected to be married late this month or early in January when he returns from Jordan. Hitherto a persistent bachelor, Macomber will marry Miss Phyllis Bernau of Milton, Mass., currently personal assistant to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and previous to that personal assistant to the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

One of the most highly respected younger men in the national governmental and diplomatic scene, Macomber was a close personal friend of the late President Kennedy.

Though a Republican, he also is a close friend of President Lyndon Johnson, and on more than